

REMARKS

Claims 10-18 are pending in the present application. Claim 10 was amended for the purposes of form, and was in no way amended for reasons of patentability. Now new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendment. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kienberger et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,756). Claims 11-18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Specifically, *Kienberger*, does not, at the very least, teach a switching system connected to the packet-oriented communication network, the switching system including a plurality of conversion units and a switching matrix module, "wherein the switching matrix module combines data to be transmitted to the plurality of hubs from the conversion units for transmission via the packet-oriented network access interface." as recited in claim 10. *Kienberger* discloses a network switching system, wherein the internetworking units (IWU) pack messaging and signal information according to ATM and combines them into a cell-oriented information stream (col. 4, lines 61-67; col. 5, lines 36-42). Accordingly, the IWU's are not implemented as a connecting unit of the COMMUNICATION SYSTEM ATM-KS, but are separate, stand-alone devices. As the data is transmitted directly from each respective IWU to a corresponding COMMUNICATION SYSTEM KS, *Kienberger* provides no teaching of a switching network module in a broadband connecting unit, wherein the switching network module combines the data to be transmitted from the conversion units to the allocated transfer units for a transmission via a single packet-oriented network connecting interface. Another problem with *Kienberger* is that the reference relies on two network connecting interfaces, namely a first network connecting interface for connecting the left COMMUNICATION SYSTEM KS and a second network connecting interface for connecting the right COMMUNICATION SYSTEM KS. Thus the internetworking and signaling requirements are materially different.

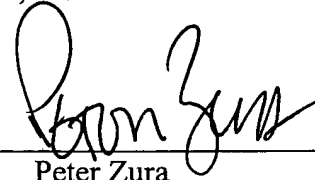
One aspect of the present claims is to provide an arrangement by which a data transmission can occur between a communication device and the transfer units, via a network access of the communication device, upon utilization of the transmission bandwidth provided by the network access, given a connection of a number of transfer units to a packet-oriented communication network. To this end, the communication device inventively includes a broadband connecting unit, which, via a timeslot-oriented connecting line, is connected to a central location of the communication device and which, via at least one packet-oriented network connection interface, is connected to the packet-oriented communication network. Also, a number of transfer units, are connected to the broadband connecting unit via a common packet-oriented network connection interface. The broadband connecting unit includes conversion units that are allocated to the transfer units, wherein the conversion units carry out a bidirectional conversion between the data format of the packet-oriented communication network and the timeslot-oriented data format. Also, the broadband connecting unit has a switching network module (coupling field module) to combine the data transmitted from the conversion units to the allocated transfer units for a transmission via the packet-oriented network connecting interface. Such a configuration is not taught by *Kienbereger*. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is improper and should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. A petition for a one-month extension of time, along with a check in the amount of \$120.00 is enclosed herein. If any additional fees are due in connection with this application as whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 021818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (112740-202) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Zura", written over a horizontal line.

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